

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
7 July 2005 (07.07.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/061896 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **F04C**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2004/005407
- (22) International Filing Date:  
23 December 2004 (23.12.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0329839.5 23 December 2003 (23.12.2003) GB
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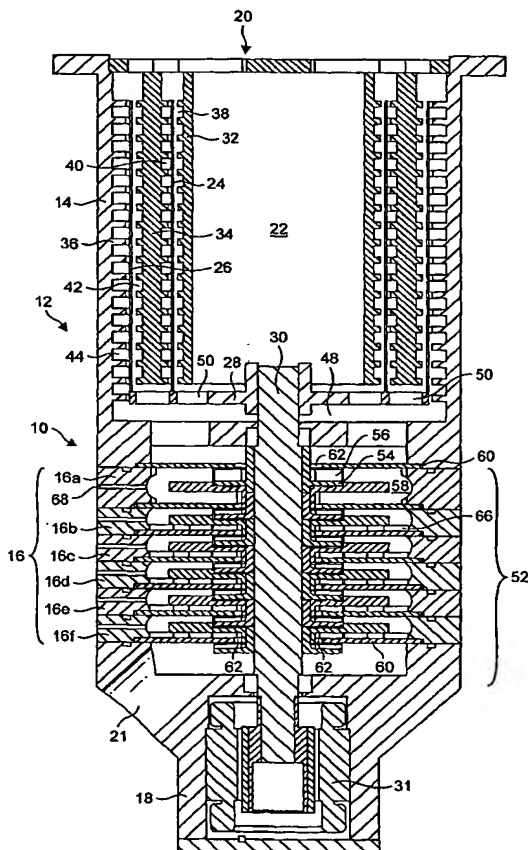
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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(54) Title: **VACUUM PUMP**



(57) Abstract: A vacuum pumping arrangement is described for evacuating a load lock chamber. A booster pump comprises a molecular drag stage and a multi-stage centrifugal compressor mechanism. A backing pump comprises a multi-stage centrifugal compressor mechanism exhausting pumped fluid at atmospheric pressure. Such arrangements can reduce noise, size and vibration levels associated with conventional load lock pumping arrangements.



(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

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